

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the amount earmarked for 2001-2002;
- (e) the works to be carried out during this period; and
- (f) by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Government approved in December, 2000, an investment of Rs. 30,300 crore for a programme of 40 sub-projects forming part of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) to be taken up during the two years, i.e. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 as well as other on going projects on NHDP and non-NHDP routes.

(c) 40 sub-projects approved by Government envisage 4/6/8 laning in a length of 4659 km. Of this, 4144 km. are On Golden Quadrilateral, 405 km on North-South and East-West Corridors and 110 km. are port connectivity projects.

(d) As the demands for grant for the year 2001-2002 is yet to be approved by Parliament, it is not possible to indicate the amount earmarked for the project.

(e) The works to be carried out during the period are the on-going works and the new works on the approved 40 sub-projects.

(f) Golden Quadrilateral component will be completed by December, 2003, and North-South and East-West Corridor component by December, 2007.

Levy of user charges and restoration fee

211. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed his ministry to seek Attorney General's opinion on the proposed levy of user charges and restoration fee towards compensation against the

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damages caused to roads by telecom operators and multi-media player while laying down the optical fibre network;

(b) if so, whether the Attorney General has given his opinion; and

(c) to what extent, both the Ministers have agreed to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The question of interpretation on the policy had arisen in a case, hence the opinion of Attorney General has been sought, which is awaited.

Ban on plying fifteen years old vehicles in Delhi

212. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to curb vehicular pollution in the Capital (Delhi), Government have decided to ban plying of private vehicles which are more than 15 years old, irrespective of the pollution control devices and measures adopted by such buses; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such a drastic measures impinging on the Fundamental Rights of citizens; and whether in order to control vehicular pollution any other effective steps are being adopted, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. The plying of 15 years old commercial transport vehicles only has been banned in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Plying of old commercial/transport vehicles of 15 years age and above has been banned *w.e.f.* 1st January, 1999.

(b) In the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a number of measures such as introduction of Metro Rail, provision of clean fuel, provision of financial